



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1104.0 - Microdata News, Feb 2012

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 24/02/2012



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In this issue

The Business Longitudinal Database CURF was released in late December 2011 and has proven popular with our clients. We also expect high demand for the Family Characteristics, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 and the Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, 2011. These CURFs are due for release in the first half of this year.

An interesting development for the ABS has been the recent release of an evaluation version of Survey TableBuilder containing the Disability Ageing and Carers 2009 dataset. This Newsletter explains more about its release.

Please don't forget to continue to send us your citations. These citations help publicise your research and assist us in understanding how you use ABS CURFs.

Also included in this issue are links to our revised RADL and Responsible Use of CURF user manuals. I'm sure you will find these very useful. While we can't provide answers to all your questions we endeavour to provide a quality service.

On that note, I would add that we welcome your feedback about our service at any time.

Kim Farley-Larmour,
Director, Microdata and Multidimensional-data Access Strategies

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New and upcoming microdata releases

To receive information about microdata on the day of its release, please subscribe to the free ABS Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access to microdata use the online microdata application and management system MiCRO.

Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2004-05 to 2009-10 (cat. no. 8168.0.55.001)

Released: 21 December 2011

The aim of Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) is to facilitate micro level analysis for a panel (cohort) of small and medium businesses over time, and it includes both characteristics and financial data. This release of the BLD CURF provides information for the first two panels included in the BLD. Five years of data is included for both panel's: Panel One includes data for 2004-05, 2005-06 , 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; and Panel Two includes data for 2005-06 , 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

A technical manual explaining data content and technical details and conditions of use of the BLD CURF 2004-05 to 2009-10 (cat. no. 8168.0.55.002) is available.

Microdata: Disability Ageing and Carers, 2009, Survey TableBuilder (cat. no. 4430.0.30.002)

Evaluation version released: 21 December 2011

At this stage the Disability Ageing and Carers, 2009 dataset in Survey TableBuilder format is a limited release to a selected group of users for evaluation purposes.

Initially, Survey TableBuilder will provide population estimates based on categorical variables (such as age and sex) from ABS household survey data. Population estimates based on continuous variables (such as income) are expected later in 2012.

Survey TableBuilder has been developed to compliment the ABS' existing suite of microdata products and services including Census TableBuilder and CURFs.

Microdata: General Social Survey Expanded CURF, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0.30.002)

Released: 22 December 2011

This CURF provides a wide range of information across areas of social concern. The focus is on the relationships between characteristics from different areas, rather than in depth information about a particular field. Topics include health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress, broad assets and liabilities, information technology, transport, social capital, voluntary work, family and community, crime, attendance at selected sport, culture and leisure venues and participation in sport and recreational activities.

An information paper explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is also provided with the file.

Microdata: Family Characteristics, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4442.0.55.001)
Expected release: Early 2012

Microdata available on this CURF were compiled from the Family Characteristics topic in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS), which was conducted as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS), from July 2009 to June 2010.

The Family Characteristics topic collected information on household and family composition including demographic, labour force, and family types. A particular focus is families with children aged 0-17 years. The additional information collected for families with children included information about family structure, the social marital status of the parents, and contact and visiting arrangements for children with non-resident parents and grandparents.

A technical manual for the Family Characteristics, Expanded CURF explaining data content, technical details and conditions will be available.

Microdata: Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0.30.001)
Expected release: Early 2012

This CURF provides selected information on participation in education, highest educational attainment, transition from education to work and current labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15-64 years. Characteristics reported on include: type of educational institution attended or attending; level and main field of education of current study and highest level and main field of educational attainment. Information on unsuccessful enrolment, and deferment of study, is included for persons not studying in the survey year.

Data on apprenticeships will also be provided. Limited information will also be included for persons aged 65-74 years who are in the labour force or marginally attached to it. Some of the statistical tables will be presented in time series format.

For further future CURF releases please see our List of Expected and Available Microdata web page.

For information on applying for access to ABS microdata, please refer to How to Apply for Microdata on the ABS website.

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Survey TableBuilder

On the 21 December, the ABS released an evaluation version of the 2009 Disability, Ageing and Carers dataset in Survey TableBuilder.

[Survey TableBuilder](#) is an online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS survey data. It has been developed by the ABS to complement the ABS' existing suite of microdata products and services including Census TableBuilder and CURFs.

At this stage the Survey TableBuilder is a limited release to a selected group of users for evaluation purposes. The evaluation period will be conducted in the first few months of 2012, during which time we will seek user feedback on the ease of use of the dataset and Survey TableBuilder generally.

Pending the outcome of the evaluation, Survey TableBuilder will then be available to all clients.

Microdata and Multidimensional-data Access and Strategies Section is responsible for client access and support for Survey TableBuilder. To contact us please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call (02) 6252 7714.

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Important information about SAS files on Basic CURFs

Many of our users accessing the Basic CURFs on CD-ROM will move from a 32-bit to a 64-bit Windows Operating System and will be requiring capability to allow interoperability between the two.

In the near future, ABS will be migrating to a 64 bit operating system. When this occurs, SAS files in both 64-bit and 32-bit will be included on the CD-ROM. For all CURFs that have already been issued, the following information will be useful to convert SAS files from 32-bit to 64-bit.

Data created with 32-bit SAS is deemed foreign in 64-bit SAS. Compatibility can be overcome by migrating datasets, using [PROC MIGRATE calculator](#).

```
libname data_32 'S:Workshop';
libname data_64 'S:Workshop64bit';

/*64bit folder created to save migrated data*/
proc migrate out=data_64 in=data_32;
run;
libname _all_ clear;
libname data_64 'S:Workshop64bit';
```

For further details please refer to PROC MIGRATE Documentation

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Expanded CURF renewal process

The following changes have been made to the annual CURF Renewal process.

It is now the responsibility of all individual Expanded CURF users to renew their access on the annual anniversary of their approval. The renewals were previously coordinated by the organisation's Contact Officer.

Individual users will be asked to confirm that they still require use of their Expanded CURFs and if so, whether the statistical purpose has changed. If the CURF is still required for the same statistical purpose, or is still required for a new valid statistical purpose, the CURF can be used for a further 12 months or for the extent of the research (if less than 12 months). If the CURF is no longer required, access to that CURF will be withdrawn.

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Please send us your citations

We want to hear about your published research! If you have been using a CURF for a project and have published your research, please send us the citation for inclusion in our list of [Published research using CURF Microdata](#) on the ABS website. The full text of the article or research is not required, although an abstract or web links can be supplied if available.

Your citations and our bibliography help publicise your research work and assist other researchers and the ABS to understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

Please email your citation (any format suitable) to microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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Help! Where do I look?

Do you need more information about the Remote Access Data Laboratory?

The updated **User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)** (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002). The RADL User Manual introduces the RADL as a mode for accessing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). The manual also includes:

- updated technical information on the RADL
- more detail on the roles and responsibilities of RADL users
- a comprehensive list of RADL Frequently Asked Questions

Do you need more information about the use of CURFs?

The **User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs** (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003) has also been updated. This manual covers user responsibilities when accessing CURFs as well as outlining the roles and responsibilities of Contact Officers and Responsible Officers.

As the above manuals have recently been revised, users should familiarise themselves with the new/amended content.

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Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

It includes information about new releases of microdata including; Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), TableBuilder datasets and other access methods, as well as tips for users and news about developments in the ABS microdata world.

Previously known as CURF Microdata News.

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